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U.S. CHARGES FIVE WITH ROBBERY AND WEAPONS CHARGES
IN 2002 ARMED HOME INVASION IN PIERMONT, NEW YORK

JAMES B. COMEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced the filing of a three-count Indictment in White Plains federal court on October 21, 2003, charging RAYMOND ACCOLLA, PRESTON YOUNG, DANIEL FELICIANO and DANIEL SOTO with federal robbery and weapons charges in connection with their alleged participation in an armed invasion of the home of Joseph Raso in Piermont, Rockland County, New York, on June 5, 2002.

In a related case, MICHAEL WILLIAMSON entered a plea of guilty to federal robbery and weapons charges in connection with his role in the June 5, 2002, invasion of the Raso home.

According to Complaints filed in the case, on the morning of June 5, 2002, defendants FELICIANO and SOTO entered the private home of Raso in Piermont, where they used and brandished a loaded gun to conduct an armed robbery of the premises.

According to the Complaints, FELICIANO and SOTO tied up and restrained the inhabitants of the home, including Raso and

two of Raso's house guests, with duct tape and neckties.

According to the Complaints, FELICIANO and SOTO told Raso that he owed a debt, and one of the men made a threatening comment about one of Raso's children.

As a result of threatened physical violence, Raso identified a particular item in his home that contained jewelry and a substantial amount of cash, which cash Raso had acquired through his interstate beer distribution company, Raso Beer Distributing, Inc. According to the Complaints, FELICIANO and SOTO left the Raso premises with approximately \$100,000 in cash and jewelry.

According to the Complaints, the armed home invasion was orchestrated and planned by ACCOLLA, YOUNG and WILLIAMSON, who waited outside the Raso premises in a car while the robbery took place, and who communicated with FELICIANO and SOTO by way of cellular telephones during the robbery. According to the Complaints, ACCOLLA, YOUNG, WILLIAMSON, FELICIANO and SOTO divided the proceeds of the armed home invasion shortly after FELICIANO and SOTO left the Raso premises.

On October 22, 2002, WILLIAMSON, 30, of New York, New York, entered a plea of guilty in White Plains federal court before United States Magistrate Judge MARK D. FOX to robbery and weapons charges in connection with his role in the armed home invasion of the Raso premises.

ACCOLLA, 49, of Suffern, New York, YOUNG, 64, of Palisades Park, New Jersey, FELICIANO, 27, of Bronx, New York and

SOTO, 21, of Bronx, New York, were arrested previously and are being detained pending trial.

The four defendants are scheduled to be arraigned before United States Magistrate Judge MARK D. FOX in White Plains federal court on Wednesday, October 29, 2003, at 9 A.M.

If convicted on these charges, ACCOLLA, YOUNG, FELICIANO and SOTO face a maximum term of imprisonment of 27 years and a maximum fine of \$250,000.

Mr. COMEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Piermont, New York, Police Department, and the Clarkstown, New York, Police Department for their assistance in the investigation of this case.

Assistant United States Attorney JONATHAN LEIKEN is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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